

Claims 14 - 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,201,548 to Tamaoku. Claims 15 - 17 have been cancelled. Claim 14 has been amended to specify that the membrane is impregnated with ethyl cellulose, a surfactant, and tertiary octyl phenol. A marked up copy of amended claim 14 is attached as Appendix A. As the Examiner noted in the Office Action of October 5, 2000 (Paper No. 2), use of this combination is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Appendix A to Amendment and Reply Under 37 CFR § 1.116
Marked-Up Version of Rewritten Claims Under 37 CFR § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)
Application No. 09/268,930

14. (Amended) A test device for detecting ammonia production potential of aqueous systems comprising:

a test strip comprising a clear semi-rigid material,

an alkalizing pad adhered to the test strip, the alkalizing pad comprising a non-ammonia alkaline agent sufficient to raise the pH of a confined test sample to at least 10; and

an indicator pad adhered to the test strip, the indicator pad comprising a porous hydrophobic barrier membrane that allows ammonia gas to pass through, the porous hydrophobic barrier membrane having a front side for contacting the test sample and an opposite side coated with a pH chromogenic mixture which responsively changes color in response to the amount of ammonia gas in the aqueous system, said membrane being impregnated with ethyl cellulose, a surfactant, and tertiary octyl phenol, and the opposite side protected from contact with the test sample by the clear semi-rigid material,

wherein color changes of the pH chromogenic mixture on the opposite side of the membrane may be viewed through the clear semi-rigid material.